



## **Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office**

### **Personnel Accounting Cooperation with Japan**

**As of May 12, 2010**

#### **Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) 2010 Goals**

- Maintain information exchange and open dialogue with the Embassy of Japan and Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare (MHLW) officials regarding U.S. and Japanese World War II personnel accounting efforts.
- Engage Japanese MHLW officials about selected U.S. World War II MIA cases as required.
- As required, request permission from the Government of Japan to investigate, locate, and recover remains of missing American servicemen from World War II that are located in Japan or on Japanese territory. Continue to assist Japan in their WW II remains recovery effort on Attu Island, Alaska.

#### **Background**

- Following the end of WW II, the U.S. Army Graves Registrations Service conducted an extensive search for the almost 54,000 missing personnel in the Pacific and Chinese-Burma-India Theaters of Operation. The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) continues to conduct World War II search and recovery efforts worldwide.
- The Government of Japan (GOJ), through its MHLW, conducts search and recovery operations throughout the Asia Pacific region. The Japanese MHLW is responsible for World War II personnel accounting efforts on Iwo Jima, but must coordinate all remains recovery activities on Iwo Jima with the Ministry of Defense.
- DPMO and JPAC have hosted several official Japanese delegation visits to the U.S.; JPAC has trained members of the Japanese Defense Agency and police departments in JPAC methodology.

#### **Activities**

- **2009**
  - On February 20: DASD Ray responded to Ambassador Fujisaki diplomatic notes promising to assist Japanese officials in planning and executing the proposed Japanese remains recovery operation on Attu Island.
  - On May 13, 2009, the Japan MHLW informed DPMO that they had thoroughly investigated eight cases of missing U.S. Servicemen from WW II by searching their archives, but were unable to find any information pertaining to these cases.
  - From July 2008 through the present date: DPMO hosted a series of interagency meetings (including representatives from other departments/agencies) to consider the request from the GOJ to return to Attu Island to recover and repatriate remains of WW II Japanese soldiers. The interagency group identified requirements and

provided assistance to the GOJ's request. USPACOM has the operational lead and has developed an Operations Plan to support the Japanese remains recovery effort to accomplish the mission. PACOM's plan scheduled an engineering assessment of Attu in August 2009. Mission accomplishment will likely require a multi-year effort.

- From August 5-19, 2009, a USPACOM team of Army engineers from Alaska assessed routes to burial sites of Japanese soldiers from World War II. We are awaiting the results of that operation. The next step is an environmental assessment (EA) on Attu. The GOJ is in the process of obtaining the required funds to pay expenses for the EA on Attu. The EA is required by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service before any additional engineering work can take place.

- **2010**

- Under the direction USARPAC, the Army Corps of Engineers will conduct an environmental assessment on Attu in the summer of 2010. Also, ARPAC will also conduct an engineering reconnaissance on Attu in 2010.
- USPACOM is leading the effort to ensure that the operational, financial, and diplomatic process for funding this recovery is effective and legally sound.
- The remains recovery operation on Attu will likely take place in 2011.